



GAIL FARBER, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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May 20, 2013

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **T-3**

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Gail Farber *Gail Farber*
Director of Public Works

**BOARD MOTION OF MAY 21, 2013, AGENDA ITEM 15
PATHFINDER ROAD AT ROWLAND HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER DRIVEWAY
TRAFFIC SIGNAL
UNINCORPORATED ROWLAND HEIGHTS AREA**

The following is background information regarding Item 15 of the May 21, 2013, agenda. This item is directing Public Works to install a traffic signal on Pathfinder Road at the entrances to the Rowland Heights Community Center and the Buddhist Temple, in the unincorporated Rowland Heights area.

On July 26, 2005, as part of the Buddhist Temple conditional use permit, the Board amended the project condition to require a \$25,000 contribution toward the installation of the traffic signal at the project driveway and the subject location was deemed necessary as determined by Department of Public Works. If the Board approves the subject motion, then Public Works will seek to collect this contribution from the developer.

Consistent with the attached September 24, 1974, Board-adopted policy, we are informing you that a traffic engineering study was not performed for the subject location. The Rowland Heights Community Center has just begun construction. The Buddhist Temple driveway construction has not yet commenced. As a result, traffic volumes and patterns based on the Community Center's usage are not available to perform a traffic signal analysis.

If you have any questions, please call me or your staff may contact Patrick V. DeChellis, Deputy Director, at (626) 458-4004.

PJB:sm

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Attach.

cc: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

ROAD DEPARTMENT

1540 ALCAZAR STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90033
TELEPHONE 225-1077

J. L. MORHAR, ROAD COMMISSIONER
N. G. MARTINDALE, CHIEF DEPUTY

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P. O. BOX 6909
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90054

September 11, 1974

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE:

A-0

Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Hall of Administration

850.27.13

Gentlemen:

TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES
ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS

RECOMMENDATION:

That your Honorable Board direct the Road Department to complete and transmit the results of an Engineering Study to the Board of Supervisors prior to the installation of any traffic control device not recommended by the Road Commissioner.

In recent years public jurisdictions have experienced an increasing number of adverse court decisions in liability cases. The evident erosion of the concept of governmental immunity has led us to ask the County Counsel for a formal opinion concerning the County's potential liability when the Road Commissioner is instructed to install a traffic control device, such as traffic signals or stop signs, at a location where conditions are such that in his best judgment such an installation could increase the potential for accidents.

ADOPTED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

94

SEP 24 1974

JAMES S. MIZE
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

September 11, 1974

In an opinion dated August 21, 1974, copy attached, County Counsel advises that the County has potential liability in such cases. He recommends that, even though the traffic device installation may have already been ordered, the Road Commissioner advise the Board of Supervisors of his professional opinion and receive formal instructions before proceeding with such an installation under these circumstances.

Literally, hundreds of locations are reviewed each year to determine the desirability of traffic control devices. We recognize that the evaluation of the need and determination of the appropriate type of such installations is not an exact science but is based on experience and accepted standards. In addition, the demand for such devices is generated at times by unfortunate and sometimes spectacular accidents, adding emotion and strong public opinion to such request.

It is my intent and desire to continue this Department's long history of maximum responsiveness to the wishes and direction of the Board. All directives of your Board concerning the installation of traffic control devices will be processed as expeditiously as possible.

If the Board of Supervisors adopts the recommended policy, I will transmit an engineering study and recommendation for your consideration and determination for those cases where, in my judgment, the installation of a suggested traffic control device could increase the accident potential.

Upon approval, please return one copy of this letter to the Road Department.

Respectfully submitted;

I. L. MORRIS
Road Commissioner

RNS:bs

Attachment

cc: Each Supervisor
Communications Section
C.A.O.
County Council